

## Commercial Fishing in Oregon, 2001

### Landings and value decrease in 2001

Oregon's 2001 commercial fish landings of 233.8 million pounds (round weight) were down 11 percent from 2000. The \$69.1 million value of the catch was down nearly 13 percent from last year's \$79.1 million value due to decreased landing values for crab, shrimp, groundfish, and whiting.

Three groups of species, crab, groundfish, and whiting decreased in poundage. The 9.7 million pounds of crab landed, is 13 percent less than last year's 11.2 million pounds. Groundfish (excluding Pacific Whiting) landings were down by 20 percent from last year with 31.5 million pounds, as increasingly stringent regulations were imposed. Whiting landings were down by 22 percent to only 117.7 million pounds, the lowest total since 1993.

Salmon landings and values increased again in 2001 compared to 2000. Salmon poundage increased from 3.1 million to 5.3 million. Salmon values increased 48 percent from \$4.0 million to \$5.9 million. Shrimp landed value decreased from \$10.2 million to \$7.6 million in spite of the increase in poundage from 25.5 million pounds to 28.5 million pounds, because of the reduction in prices received. Tuna landings increased by 2 percent, but the value of these tuna landings increased by 10 percent compared to 2000, because of the higher average price received by harvesters.

### Commercial species harvested

**Groundfish** - Groundfish is a collective name given to about 80 species of fish generally possessing white flesh and residing in the middle depths of the ocean, on ocean bottoms, and around reefs and offshore rocks. Included in the groundfish sector are flatfish, rockfish and other roundfish such as ling cod. Groundfish landings, excluding Pacific Whiting, were 31.5 million pounds in 2001. They were down from 39.3 million pounds in 2000, due to increasingly severe harvest regulations. The value of groundfish was \$20.4 million in 2001 compared to \$24.3 million in 2000.

**Whiting** - In this update whiting is shown as a separate column for the first time. Whiting has been the species with the greatest landed pounds since 1992. Since late 1990, only U.S. vessels have harvested this species. Oregon landings of whiting are expected to continue to be the largest component of groundfish landings. Whiting is the major constituent of the surimi (a highly refined form of minced fish meat used for a variety of analog fish products, such as imitation crab) that is shipped primarily to Asian markets. Whiting prices received by harvesters are relatively low, so the ex-vessel value of whiting is below that of most other species groups.

**Pink Shrimp** - Pink shrimp landings increased 12 percent from 2000 with 28.5 million pounds. However, their total value of 7.6 million dollars was a 26 percent decrease from last year's 10.2 million dollars because of lower prices.

**Salmon** - In 2001 Oregon's salmon landings and values were 68 percent above the 2000 levels, and represented the highest poundage since 1991. Significant harvest restrictions had been in place since 1994 to protect or enhance existing stocks of salmon, especially Coho. Ocean conditions have improved and even though significant restrictions on Coho harvests remain in place, 2001 was a significant turnaround year. Chinook salmon harvests were 74 percent of total salmon catch, and almost all of the ocean salmon catch. The total ex-vessel value of the 2001 salmon harvest was \$5.9 million, compared to \$4.0 million in 2000.

**Dungeness Crab** - Dungeness crab landings for calendar year 2001 decreased by 13 percent from 2000. In calendar 2001, 9.7 million pounds were landed compared to 2000's 11.2 million pounds. The ex-vessel value of the landings was down to \$19.2 million, a 19 percent decrease from 2000's \$23.6 million value. From the fishery's seasonal perspective, the crab season running from December, 2000 through August, 2001 had landings of 7.4 million pounds and a value of \$15.6 million.

**Tuna** - Landings of tuna (Albacore) increased again in 2001 to nearly 9.0 million pounds compared to the 8.8 million pounds landed in 2000. The value of 2001 tuna landings also increased to \$7.6 million, a 10 percent increase compared to the value of \$6.9 million received by harvesters in 2000.

**Other Species** - Landings of other species also increased significantly in 2001 to 32.2 million pounds compared to 24.6 million pounds landed in 2000. Harvest value also increased to \$4.4 million versus the \$4.1 million received for other species in 2000. The main source of the improvement continues to be the remarkable resurgence of the sardine fishery off the North coast. Sardine landings amounted to 28.2 million pounds of the other species total, and had a value of over \$1.6 million. Sea urchin landings and values also increased in 2001.

**Oysters** - Oyster production in 2001, at 41,016 gallons was similar in magnitude to 2000 production. The value of this production, at \$1,436,000, was also close to 2000 money. There was a large increase in the Tillamook Bay harvest.

**Trout** - The value of commercial trout production for 2001 was over \$2.2 million. This is 62 percent higher than 2000 production.